



NEWS RELEASE

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Expired Permit Leads to Drug Smuggling Charges

Mexican man who failed to renew his travel permit caught smuggling

CHULA VISTA, Calif. – An expired travel document resulted in the arrest of a Mexican man for smuggling illegal narcotics Sunday evening.

Border Patrol Agents encountered the nervous driver of a 1994 Nissan Sentra at approximately 8:30 p.m. at the Border Patrol's I-5 checkpoint. The 22-year-old Mexican man produced a valid border-crossing card when asked for immigration documents.

However, the man's I-94, a permit that allows bearer to travel beyond the 25-mile limit imposed by the border-crossing card, had expired. When agents discovered the expired document, the man was arrested for violating his immigration status.

In conducting a search of the vehicle incident to the arrest, agents utilized a Border Patrol K-9. The dog alerted agents to several bundles of marijuana hidden between the back seat and trunk area. A total of 80.6 pounds with an estimated national street value of more than \$56,000 were seized.

The driver was arrested for transportation of a controlled substance. Agents from the North County Task Force of Drug Enforcement Administration assumed custody of the suspect, vehicle, and narcotics.

Border Patrol agents in San Diego have seized cocaine and marijuana with an estimated national street value of more than \$7 million since Oct. 1, 2003.

~ USBP ~

Photos and Video Available